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ciation of the separate existence of the country as a sovereign State" (p. 355). There are other objections that might be raised here and there, there are lacunae in more than one of Professor Marczali's arguments, but lack of space forbids adducing them here.

The great merit of the book lies in the wealth of new facts brought to light, especially in the chapters on economic and social conditions, and in the well-rounded description of a fairly typical medieval society lingering on into an age when, with the aid of the reports of an industrious bureaucracy, it could almost be photographed. Really charming are the pictures drawn of the old-fashioned country gentry and their activities in the county courts and "congregations", of the folk-lore and superstitions of the peasants, of life in the Calvinist colleges, etc. It is to be hoped that we may some day receive a translation of the remainder of this work, in which the author describes the conflict of this ancient society with Joseph II.

ROBERT H. LORD.

Johann Gustav Droysen. Erster Teil: bis zum Beginn der Frankfurter Tätigkeit. Von G. DROYSEN. (Leipzig and Berlin: B. G. Tuebner. 1910. Pp. vi, 372.)

PROFESSOR J. G. DROYSEN, historian of Hellenism and of Prussian politics, translator of Aeschylus and Aristophanes, political leader in the national rising of 1848—a man of such wide-ranging activity affords a worthy subject-matter of biographical study; in exploring his life, we are carried into the midst of the life of his times and his nation, and at the same time he has the interest of a type and of a strongly individual character. Droysen has found a devoted biographer in his own son, the late Professor Gustav Droysen, himself an historian of honorable standing, who, however, was not allowed to finish his work, the first volume of which has now been edited after his death by Professor Rudolf Hübner. This biography throughout has the happy impress of that loving carefulness that rather strives to understand and explain than to judge the motive forces of a varied career like that of Droysen; and out of the abundance of details from family tradition and from personal letters as well as out of the psychological study of scientific work and political action, we see rising before us the vivid picture of a *man*, passionate and stubborn, artist and fighter, with his powers always strained to the utmost, whether for searching into historical documents or for shaping patriotic ideas.

In this book, Droysen appears as the true Prussian, unswerving in the great aims of life from his earliest youth, working hard to reach them, inwardly earnest, almost austere even in the midst of genial enjoyment, always maintaining his individuality unerased, yet—and that is what makes the attractiveness of the book—incessantly advancing into new fields of ideas, quickly extending his abilities and developing his mind. Although he comparatively early emancipated himself from the

deductions of Hegelian philosophy, he had learned from Hegel to find universal ideas of progress incorporated in the great men of history; he himself was the incorporation of such an idea, the German or rather Prussian state idea. In studying his life and work, we are satisfied that he, perhaps more than any other German man of letters, prepared the ground for Bismarck. He stood for liberal reforms, but he was not a liberal doctrinaire; on the contrary, Hegel and history had taught him that politics were a question of power, not one of right, and he made himself the champion of *Realpolitik*.

As an historian and a philologist also, he looked out not for erudition, but for real life. He was in the front rank of the men who conquered the classical studies for the science of human evolution; in his translations of Aeschylus (1832) and Aristophanes (1835-1838) he consciously strove to resuscitate the olden poetry into modern life, and in his history of Hellenism (1833-1843) he was able to establish a new estimate of old value; he first of all saw the historical right of Alexander as against Demosthenes, of national Macedonia as against disintegrated Greece, and he it was who stamped the idea of Hellenistic culture as marking the epoch of transition to modern history. Just because of this tendency to historical realism, he ever more strongly felt compelled to leave the classics. "I really was a fool", he wrote in 1841 (p. 208), "who went into the silly fragmental antiquity instead of enjoying the rich and stirred-up atmosphere of nearer times." This feeling especially grew strong with him, since he had gone as professor of history to Kiel in 1840; there he was put on the frontier guard of German nationality, and he instantly comprehended the great possibilities and duties of his new university. "We are too sluggish, too haughty, too abstract", he wrote in 1845 to another professor (p. 284), "instead of filling sausages, which is now our essential merit as regards the students, we ought to kindle fires on the mountain-tops of science for the guidance of the wayfaring folk in the dark valleys." Therefore, he soon began courses of modern history, he exerted himself hard to rally the most prominent German historians about a great co-operative work on German history after 1815 (see his interesting letters to Dahlmann, pp. 288-292), and he published (1846) his lectures upon the Wars of Liberty, which, in a sympathetic, positive way, related the rise, the struggles, and the preliminary defeat of the spirit of liberty from 1776 until 1815. His literary and university work at Kiel during the forties aimed all of it not only at searching into history, but still more at creating history, and he naturally became a leader in the national movement in Holstein which resulted in the rebellion of 1848.

The new biography does not bring any unknown details about his political activity in this rising, and the intricate political questions concerning Holstein and Schleswig are treated from the traditional German point of view. But, in a very concrete way, we are made acquainted with the feelings reigning at that outpost of national struggle, the Uni-

versity of Kiel. Generally speaking, that is one of the strong points of this book, the depicting of the *milieu*; very distinctly, we discern the effects of war on the home of a plain citizen in the Napoleonic times; we are introduced into the hard conditions of a poor student and an almost equally poor "professor extraordinary" in absolutistic Berlin. And through it all, we are allowed to follow the development of a highly remarkable genius into the full ripeness of manhood.

The first volume of the Droysen biography does not carry his life farther than the spring of 1848; the editor promises a second volume, mostly containing letters and notes from Droysen's parliamentary activity at Frankfort and his later university work, and certainly we are justified in looking forward to an interesting collection of papers from a man who was wont to indulge in as full and unrestrained speaking in his letters as Droysen appears to do in the quotations of this first volume.

HALVDAN KOHT.

Bismarck: Eine Biographie. Von ERICH MARCKS. Erster Band. *Bismarck's Jugend, 1815-1848.* (Stuttgart and Berlin: J. G. Cotta. 1909. Pp. xvi, 476.)

IF Marcks's coming volumes were to deal with Bismarck's career after 1848 as this volume deals with his earlier years; if the letters of the statesman were to be utilized as conscientiously as is the scanty correspondence of the law student, the government employee, the country gentleman; if the despatches of the Prussian ambassador at Frankfort were to be examined and discussed as thoroughly as are the reports of the referendary at Aix and at Potsdam, the squire of Kniephof's article in defense of the Pomeranian hunt, and his correspondence with his fellow squires and with the authorities at Berlin concerning the patrimonial jurisdiction; if, finally, the parliamentary speeches of the Prussian prime minister and of the German chancellor were to be analyzed as minutely as are the speeches of the Schönhausen deputy in the United Diet of 1847—it is difficult to conjecture how much shelf-room the completed work, if ever it were completed, would demand. In his preface, however, the author reassures us. His book is to be a biography, not a history. In this first volume the personal element naturally preponderates: in it must be laid the foundations of Bismarck's whole career, of his personal and political existence to its close. Much that would be unimportant in his later life is important in these beginnings.

In the dearth of authentic information, this period of Bismarck's life has been reconstructed by previous biographers on the basis, largely, of reminiscences of friends and acquaintances and of anecdotes of uncertain origin—reminiscences that have probably been reconstructed, anecdotes that in many cases have become legends. Marcks has made a serious effort to eliminate exaggerations, to sweep away the purely legendary material and to find the facts. In this effort he had, for three